

Bicyclist & Pedestrian Program

Annual Report – Fiscal Year 2006-07
Department of Transportation

Projects Completed in FY06-07



Sidewalk Gaps
4 projects



Curb Ramps
700 ramps



Bike Lanes
5 projects, 3 miles



Bike Racks
300 racks, 600 bikes

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Program Overview

The City of San José's General Plan establishes a vision for a walkable, bikable San José. The General Plan identifies Pedestrian Cores and Corridors, as well as a citywide Bicycle Network. The municipal code, city design standards, area specific plans, and the development review process all work together to ensure effective implementation of this vision. This report highlights some of the Bicyclist & Pedestrian (Bike/Ped) Program's accomplishments over the past fiscal year.

Project Updates

Curb Ramps – During FY06-07, the City of San José installed approximately 700 curb ramps. These ramps improve mobility and access for persons with physical disabilities, as well as pedestrians with baby strollers or other wheeled devices. San José also required private developments to install curb ramps at public intersections adjacent to their development sites.

Bike Lanes – Five Bike Lane projects totaling three miles were completed during the fiscal year. These projects improve access to jobs, schools, transit centers and commercial districts by providing connections to existing bikeways. With these



projects the Bike Lane network grows to 150 miles.

Sharrows Pilot Projects – During the summer of 2007, the Bike/Ped Program began planning two pilot projects for



Shared Roadway Bicycle Markings (aka "Sharrows"). These state-approved pavement markings show a bike symbol with two chevrons above it. Sharrows are intended to remind motorists and bicyclists that bicyclists should ride outside the door zone (where a parking motorist's door opens into the street). Sharrows also help close Bike Lane bottlenecks, which are gaps in Bike Lane corridors due to narrow sections of street. The FY07-08 work plan calls for installing sharrows on: (1) the west end of San Fernando Street, connecting the Diridon Train Station with existing San Fernando Bike Lanes; and (2) portions of Park Avenue connecting with existing and planned sections of Park Avenue Bike Lanes.

Audible Pedestrian Signals – The Audible Pedestrian Signal program processes requests from sight-impaired individuals for pedestrian crossing signals that supplement visual cues with audible cues. In FY06-07, the program evaluated and approved 10 requests, and installed APS devices at eight signalized pedestrian crossings.

Pedestrian Countdown Signals – In the past two years, San José installed nearly 5,000 Pedestrian Countdown Signals throughout the City. These devices display the remaining time before the pedestrian crossing phase ends. In 2002, San José published analysis of these devices, which found they improve pedestrian signal compliance and are well-accepted by pedestrians. Since that time, Pedestrian Countdown Signals have been widely adopted throughout the U.S.

Sidewalk Gap Closures – The Program was active with fourteen sidewalk projects to eliminate existing sidewalk gaps. These projects include the design and installation of sidewalks, curb, gutter, and curb ramps. On average, the Program completes about four sidewalk gap closure projects each year.

Bike Racks – The Bike/Ped Program obtained grant funding for and purchased three hundred fifty bike racks. During FY06-07, racks will be installed at public sites



in the city. Racks will accommodate two bikes each and bring the inventory of city public bike racks to over 500.

City Ped & ADA Plan Updates – During FY06-07, the City of San José hired a consultant team and began a year-long update of its Pedestrian & ADA Sidewalk Masterplan. The project will include public outreach and is scheduled for completion in December 2007.

Bicycle Friendly Community Award – In August 2006, the City of San José received a bronze-level Bicycle Friendly Communities award. This national award was the result of an

independent audit of San José's bicycle facilities and programs. The audit applauded

San José's growing network of Bike Lanes and Bike Trails, as well as the city's bicycling education classes for children and adults. Nationally, only 64 communities in the U.S. have received this award.

Walkable City Award – In 2007, San José was named the seventh most walkable city in the nation. *Prevention* magazine and the American Podiatric Medical Association evaluated the 100 largest U.S. cities and ranked San José in the top ten.

Program Updates

Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee

San José's Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) provides the City with advice and suggestions on how to improve bicyclist and pedestrian accommodation citywide. During FY2006-07, BPAC met nine times and achieved the top goal in its annual work plan: apply for Bicycle Friendly Community certification (see discussion in previous paragraph). BPAC is made up of eleven volunteer-members who live and/or work in San José. Meetings are open to the public.

Adult Bicycling Skills Classes – The Bike/Ped Program offers free Bicycling Skills Classes four times per year. Based on the leading national curriculum, these classes provide interactive on-bike and classroom training on the rules of the road, riding in traffic, taking bikes on public transportation, and performing basic bike repairs. The

course is taught by nationally certified instructors.

Bike/Ped Collision Analysis – This program seeks to identify common causes of roadway collisions involving bicyclists or pedestrians so that improvements may be developed to improve safety. After two successful years of Bike/Ped Collision Analysis, budget constraints in FY03-04 brought a temporary halt to this project. Fortunately, the budget was reinstated for FY07-08, and analysis has resumed. New annual reports are expected in FY07-08.

Grant Funding – The Program successfully obtained nearly \$1m in funding from grant sources such as the regional Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) and the California Transportation Development Act, Article III (TDA3).

Bike to Work Day – For the sixth consecutive year, the Bike/Ped Program hosted an Energizer Station on statewide Bike to Work Day (BTWD). During the



morning commute, BPAC members and volunteers setup an Energizer Station outside the MLK Library in downtown San José. The Energizer Station offered bicyclists free snacks and drinks, free bicycle helmets and fittings, and free information on bicycle commuting. More than 300 bicyclists stopped by this location. San José also assisted with bike parking at the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition's "Bike Away from Work" party in downtown San José.

Mayor's VIP Bike Ride – As part of the City of San José's Bike to Work Day celebration, the Bike/Ped Program co-presented the Mayor's VIP Bike Ride. The ride from Diridon Transit Station to City Hall included the Mayor, three council members, the chief of police, a county supervisor, the CEO of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, the Executive Director of the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, and members of the press.

Sidewalk Repair – The San José Sidewalk Repair program repaired 3097 sidewalks during FY06-07. The program offers a small grant to assist homeowners with their obligation to repair damaged sidewalks. In FY06-07, the City awarded 1148 grants.

Program Web Page – The Bike/Ped Program web page provides program information and community resources for bicyclists and pedestrians in San José. See www.sanjoseca.gov/transportation/bikeped_program.asp

Related Programs & Collaborations

School Safety Program – San José's School Safety Program conducts outreach and education at public schools throughout the city. The program focuses on improving pedestrian, bicyclist, and motorist behavior to and from schools. During FY06-07, this program provided 84 presentations at 31 schools, reaching more than 15,000 students.

Trail Program – The San José Trail Program continues to develop the City's vision of a 32 system, 100 mile Trail network. During FY06-07, the Trail Program prepared four project grants. By fiscal year end, 40 total trail network miles were complete and open. See www.sjparks.org/trails/

Disability Advisory Commission – San José's Disability Advisory Commission (DAC) provides the City Council advice and suggestions on accommodating persons with disabilities. During FY06-07, the Bike/Ped

Program consulted with DAC regarding the city's Pedestrian & ADA Sidewalk Master Plan Update.

SJPD Bike Patrol – More than 300 San José Police Department officers are trained to ride police bicycles. At any given time, up to 20 SJPD are on-bike. The Bike Patrol program significantly improves officer mobility and interaction with citizens.

Amgen Tour of California – For the second consecutive year, the City of San José hosted a stage of the Amgen Tour of California professional bike race. This eight-day event brought the world's top professional cyclists to the south bay.

Parking Enforcement Bike Patrol – San José's Parking & Traffic Control program includes six on-bike officers. All on-bike officers have successfully completed the Bike/Ped Program's Bike Skills Class. On-bike enforcement increases patrol mobility and reduces costs.

Traffic Safe Communities Network – San José's Bike/Ped Program participated in the Bike/Ped Workgroup of the countywide Traffic Safe Communities Network. Projects included middle-school helmet usage surveys, bicycle rodeos, and helmet fittings.

Contacts

John Brazil
Bicyclist & Pedestrian Program Coordinator
City Of San José, DOT
200 E. Santa Clara Street, 8th Floor
San José, CA 95113-1905
Tel: 408-975-3206, Fax: 408-292-6096
Email: john.brazil@sanjoseca.gov
Web: www.sanjoseca.gov/transportation/bikeped_program.asp